



## **MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2018**

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### **Commercial and Recreational Fisheries**

- Duck Creek and Chipman's Cove closed on April 30.
- Commercial shellfishing continues with a core group of 15-20 wild harvesters working daily and on-and-off harvesters joining in a few times a week.
- There has been an increase in draggers working the harbor, and we know that more boats are on the way, therefore we have increased our boat patrols and dockside inspections. They are targeting oysters, quahogs and blood clams. There are some new operators, so we are conducting educational conversations as well.
- Recreational fishing activity has been light at the Indian Neck area, except on sunny weekend days. Chipman's Cove was busier. We checked the areas daily, educating harvesters and returning any seed to the water. We have sold 300 recreational shellfishing permits to date.

### **Enforcement**

- Spot seed checks continued with wild commercial harvesters.
- We began messaging with commercial harvesters about going home rule: they must cull on site, NOT at home; all shellfish must go directly to market; any seed left on oysters counts against them if an EPO stops them; tags must happen on site, too. We are continuing this outreach.
- We responded to complaints of fishermen harvesting seed oysters and followed up by inspecting each one without incident.
- Complaints were received about boats fishing on grants and in the recreational area. We conducted boat patrols to delineate grant boundaries and the Indian Neck recreational area for boats fishing near those areas. We also photo documented activity for our records.
- We pulled one fisherman out of the sand on a dirt road.
- We stopped three recreational harvesters at Old Wharf Point, who were using their parents permits (who were not present) and made them return their catch.
- We inspected the offshore grants on Indian Neck in preparation for the grant application announcement.

### **State and Town Relations**

- Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta worked on renewing our variance with Mass. Dept. of Public Health to allow transfers of market-bound oysters to take place at the pier during vibrio season, with Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries on extending the period that Chinese hat spat-collecting devices are allowed in Chipman's Cove until Oct. 20, and with MADMF to provide more details about the contaminated quahog relay to the Shellfish Advisory Board.
- We continue to clean up aquaculture gear strewn about the harbor, returning marked gear to owners, or advising them, and taking the rest to the transfer station.
- We advertised and disseminated applications for grant #01-05, which will likely go to a lottery given the number of applications received by the end of April.
- The Constable has been communicating with the Chatham Shellfish Dept. to have them come and see the old Shellfish Offices and discuss the potential of the site for an upweller.
- April brought truck problems to WSD, and we were down to one truck for most of the month.

- The Constable met with Curt Felix for a briefing on the cultching restoration project that had been implemented in Duck Creek and ideas for moving forward, as well as about the new water director position and the potential collaboration with WSD.
- The WSD attended the MADMF vibrio plan meeting on April 26. Many Wellfleet shellfishermen attended.
- The Constable and Asst. Constable John Mankevetch assisted MADMF with a biological survey of a grant extension requested on Old Wharf Point.
- Asst. Constable took the DMF biologist out for water quality sampling.

### **Propagation**

- We did a site visit with a fisherman to explore the logistics of an offshore Kellers Corner quahog transplanting to Indian Neck (for recreational fishery) and inshore Kellers Corner (for commercial fishery). We marked the area with green buoys.
- We put buoys out on our current propagation bed for the time being. We have a meeting the week of May 21 with the upland land owner who is interested in hosting our propagation activities on his intertidal bottom, right next door to our current bed.
- The Constable revised the cultch barge bid and sent to procurement office for final touches.

### **Education & Outreach**

- On April 10, the Asst. Constable took a group of students and teachers from Four Rivers Charter School in Western Mass. on a tour of the flats and to visit a shellfish farm. He spoke about the history of shellfishing in Wellfleet, the laws and regulations governing shellfishing, propagation activities and shellfish biology, and the importance of shellfishing to our town.
- On April 28, Mankevetch kicked off the town's Arts and Culture District Walk with a talk about shellfishing in Wellfleet, its history, its cultural contributions and its importance today.
- One commercial and one recreational Shellfish Crier were distributed.
- WSD distributed May 12 Beach Clean Up "save the date" to all lists via email and calendar listings to local media outlets.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Nancy Civetta  
 Shellfish Constable